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FOR CONCILIATING THE
JARRING POLITICAL INTERESTS
OF
G R E A T B R I T A I N
AND HER
NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES,

A N D

For promoting a general Re-union throughout
the Whole of the BRITISH EMPIRE.

*Will Britons generous and free as air, enslave their sons?
Can Americans desire to be more, than Britons are?*

L O N D O N:

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A P L A N, &c.

MUCH has been said on the Subject of the disputes with our Brethren in North America—Each party complains, and the cry of redrefs is echoed from one end of the land to the other, as well among ourselves as among them.

Some think they already feel the evil, and all pretend to foresee its long train of destructive consequences; yet nobody seems hitherto to have struck at the root of it;—and whether from a want of discernment, or from secret or party motives, no one has even gone so far, as to assign the true cause of its existence.

If this was enquired into, it would perhaps be found, that it proceeds from our having changed

gradually in our national Circumstances, while our constitutional Laws have remained the same.

The Laws of Parliament indeed have varied, and do vary every Session, yet those relating to Colonization and Commerce, have not been altered often enough, nor properly adapted to times and circumstances.

Many of the other Laws of Government, which may have been very proper when they were made, are now no longer so, although still in force.

It has only been at critical times, and often at the eve of general danger, that great changes in the constitution have been brought about.— We are now at one of these critical periods, which threatens no less than the defection of a great part of the community, and by thus dividing our strength, a reduction of that Power and Pre-eminence which we have so long enjoyed over most other nations of the known world.

It therefore becomes the duty of every individual, to contribute all that he can to avert the impending Evil, and if possible, to render it the means of future Good.

It is with this view, that the following Plan is submitted to the consideration of the Public, in the full hope, that those who may disapprove it, will point out something better.

It is proposed,

That the Board of Trade and Plantations be converted into a *Supreme Council of Colonies and Commerce*.

That a certain limited Deputation be sent to that Council, from the House of Peers, composed of the different classes.

That a like Deputation be sent from the House of Commons.

That these Deputations be chosen by Ballot, at the opening of the new Council, and afterwards at the meeting of every new Parliament; or as often as any of the members

bers so chosen, shall happen to die or to resign.

That a certain limited number of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, be also named Members of this proposed *Supreme Council of Colonies and Commerce*.

That there be chosen by Ballot, by the Members of the Assemblies of the different Provinces of British America and ~~the~~ West India Islands, a certain number, in proportion to that of the Inhabitants of such Provinces and Islands, to represent them in this *Supreme Council*.

That the number of Members in general of the said Council, thus to be elected, be previously fixed by the Law to be passed for the purpose of establishing these regulations, in proportion as the number of Inhabitants of Great Britain shall be found to be, to those of the Colonies; in order that the Representation may, as nearly as possible, be equal; and as Population in some of these Colonies is thought to double

ble every twenty-five years, the general Representation to be new modelled at every such Period.

That the Deputies of the Houses of Lords and Commons in the *Supreme Council*, shall be debarred from holding any Place or Office under the Crown, but be allowed, on account of their extraordinary Attendance on the Business of the Nation, £ per annum each.

That the Representatives of the Colonies and West India Islands, be also allowed such an annual Salary as the General Assemblies of those Provinces or Islands, according to their different circumstances, shall judge sufficient, for their attendance in like manner on public Business,

That the Representatives of the Colonies and Islands be chosen for Life, subject only to be removed or displaced, on proof of their accepting of any Place, Pension, or Bribe: thus all former objections to American representation, will be removed.

That

That the same Salary now paid to the Commissioners of the Board of Trade, be allowed to such of the Members of his Majesty's Privy Council, as he shall name *Supreme Counsellors of Colonies and Commerce.*

That the Lord Chancellor, the Bishop of London, and the other *ex officio* Members of the present Board of Trade, be also Members of this Council.

That this Council so chosen, be summoned to meet in London on for the dispatch of Business, and to continue to sit, or be prorogued from time to time, in the same manner as the Houses of Parliament.

That the Council be empower'd to repeal, alter, or amend, all Laws relative to Trade and Plantations, whether particularly regarding the Trade of Great-Britain, or the affairs in general of any of the British Colonies or Islands.

That

That all new Laws proposed to be enacted by the said *Council*, shall be sent first to the House of Commons; and after being read there, and amended if thought necessary, shall be sent from thence to the House of Peers for the like purpose; from whence to be returned to the Supreme Council, which shall be at liberty to approve or disapprove of such Amendments.

That should the Majority of the Members of the Council persist in their first resolutions, although contrary, perhaps, either to the opinion of the House of Peers, or the House of Commons, (which are both there represented by their Deputies) the Speakers of both Houses of Parliament shall, on the third presentation of such Acts of Council, write on the same, *Read in full Assembly,—* and *approved,—or disapproved,* a-
gainst.

That the Acts thus returned and passed in Council, shall be presented in the House of Lords to the King, who alone shall have the negative power in withholding his Royal assent, in the same manner as
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has hitherto been the practice, in respect to the united Acts of the two Houses of Parliament.

That all Law-suits in the Colonies may be appealed in the last resort to the Supreme Council.

That the power of the said Council be, however, expressly limited to the affairs in general of the Colonies and Islands, and to the particular matters of Trade or Commerce of the Mother Country.

That all the Laws hitherto enacted by the British Parliament, whether concerning our home trade, or American possessions, be enforced with vigour, until repealed, altered or amended by the proposed *Supreme Council*.

That for this purpose, a Fleet be ordered to be fitted out, with a sufficient number of Frigates, Bomb-ketches, Sloops, and Tenders, as well as a sufficient number of Marines, to sail for the Coast of North-America,

rica, and block up every Port and Harbour of such of the refractory Colonies, that refuse obedience to the Laws, as they now, or hereafter may stand.

That the Damages sustained by the East India Company, and others, by the Teas destroyed in different places of North-America, shall be ascertained by a Jury, according to the Forms of Law of the Court of King's-Bench, and Satisfaction demanded of the Aggessors; to be levied at those places in such manner as the Governor and Council of the Province shall judge the most effectual.

Should this Plan so far as it relates to the affairs of North-America, and to the Trade of Great Britain, be approved,—It might be further suggested——

To new model at the next general Election our Representation in the House of Commons, by making it equal over all Great-Britain, inproportion to the number of Inhabitants.

To establish an equal Land-Tax in every Part of the British Dominions, to be paid by

the Tenants on the real Rents, or on the just value of the Lands, if possessed by the Proprietors.

To regulate the Provision for the Clergy, and to make their yearly Stipends payable in Money, in proportion to the real Rents or value of the Lands.

To limit the Size of Farms, in order the more to increase Population, and encourage Agriculture.

To alter and amend the Marriage-Act for the like salutary purposes.

To take off such of the present Taxes on the Necessaries of Life, as affect the poor and industrious part of the Nation, and in lieu thereof, to tax Batchelors, Domestick Servants, Horses and Dogs.

To take off the Excise on Provisions, and in lieu of it, to lay a Tax on all Doors and Chimneys of the Houses of the Inhabitants, in order that the poorer Sorts of the People, who cannot afford to be well lodged, may
at

at least, eat and drink at a cheap rate; and not be tempted to emigrate, by not being able to live at home.

To suppress Smuggling, by the only effectual means of doing it,—that of taking away the Temptation.—The abolition of the Excise on Provisions will partly do this, and, to compleat the work, the duties of Customs might be reduced to a moderate rate, on the real value of all Exports, and double that rate on the Imports; which value, can best be ascertained by the Proprietors of the Goods, who will take care not to defraud the Revenue for a Trifle, when any Customhouse Officer, or others, can take those Goods, on paying one tenth part more than the declared value; and this without any form or process of Law.

If therefore only small Duties are paid on Importation of Goods, no Drawbacks at Exportation can be expected, and then the Revenue will no longer be grossly defrauded in this matter.

To

To lay before the Supreme Council, true States of our Trade with European Nations, in order, that Treaties of Commerce may be made with those Nations, for the mutual Benefit of the Trade of both.

To lay open the East India Trade at the expiration of the present Charter of the Company, which ought to be indemnified for its Forts and Settlements, by Government, on taking possession of the territorial Revenues in India.

To make a new Coinage both of Gold and Silver, and to subject our Coin to such a Duty, as other Nations do theirs, else our Money will constantly center in their Coffers; and we in time, have little left at home but Paper Currency, which, though it may pass for Money among ourselves, will not pass among our Neighbours on the Continent.

To reduce the legal Interest on *real* Security to 4 per Cent, leaving it to vary on *personal* Security, from 4 to 8 per Cent per Annum, according to Circumstances, in order that
Men

Men in Trade may not be kept out of their money by litigious Debtors, without a suitable Equivalent; and that others, who are obliged to borrow on personal Security, may openly offer, 5, 6, 7 or 8 per Cent. per Annum, to money'd Men of Character, rather than be compelled to submit to a much higher Interest, through the Channel of Annuity-Brokers, &c.

To limit the Credit on Goods bought to months, or any shorter Term that the Parties may agree upon, on the Penalty of paying the highest legal personal Interest for any retarded Payment: in order that Merchants, Wholesale Traders, and Manufacturers, may be prevented from launching out too far beyond their Capitals, and consequently from Bankruptcy and Ruin.

To prevent Churchmen from enjoying more than one Living, and to make the Livings more equal—none to exceed £.1000 a year, nor any to be less than £. 200, after the Deaths of the present Incumbents;—such regulations

regulations being only meant to take place, as they shall happen to drop off.

To prevent modern Patriotism from impeding his Majesty's Ministers in the duty of their several Offices, by taking away the Temptation ;—For this purpose it is hoped the Men now in Place, will shew themselves true Patriots, by consenting to serve for half the present yearly emoluments, until the national Debt be brought under Fifty Millions.—They will thus be the more incited to accomplish this Point as soon as possible, and the means will be easy, by the savings proposed in the mode of collecting the revenue, and the greatly increased amount of it.

Let the church lands, as the livings shall happen to fall, be appropriated to the use of the King.

Let some badge of honour or distinction be bestowed on the Members of the Supreme Council, to encourage them to persevere in bringing about the necessary regulations

gulations in what comes under their cognizance.

Finally, let a¹ ranks and degrees unite, in testifying their love and gratitude to the best of Princes, under whose mild government, they will thus be reconciled in their political Interests, in all the four quarters of the Globe; and, in the fullness of their hearts, can they do less than proclaim that benign Prince, *Emperor of Great Britain*, and of all its widely extended *foreign Dominions*, forming the greatest and most powerful *Empire*, that has ever yet existed?—Or, can it escape them on this joyful occasion, to think of building a Palace, suitable to the Grandeur of such a Potentate?

The Author hopes it will sufficiently appear from every thing that he has ventured to suggest, that he is no Party-Man;—that he has no place or pension;—and that if he has any selfish views, they can only be such, as are strongly connected with the public good.—He also hopes, that he is sufficiently prepared to answer any objections that may be started, by those who are not so independent,

dent, and with whose private Interest his ideas, may therefore happen to clash.

He thinks it almost needless to add, that he has not communicated his Plan, to any ministerial, or anti-ministerial man; nor to any person connected with the people of North-America, or the West Indies.—He commits it entirely to the public at large: happy, if his poor endeavours, can in any way cement the necessary connexion, between the character of a good Citizen and that of a loyal Subject:—And surely common equity requires, that, if we wish the Crown to give up, in any degree, the influence that it has been gradually acquiring by means of Places and Pensions, ever since the Revolution; we ought in some other way, to strengthen the hand that weilds the sceptre, and add to the Glory of the Sovereign, in proportion to the extension of dominion.

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